

CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
 SUBJECT Production of Metallic Calcium
 in Bitterfeld Discontinued

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1. The copper-calcium process was finally abandoned in March 1948. Distillation of raw electrolytically produced calcium ceased on 10 June and will in future be carried out only in the U.S.S.R.
2. Calcium chloride lye production still continues on a reduced scale. Three vats are operating under the supervision of Dr. Künzel-Wehner. They consume fifteen tons of limestone daily. Part of the lye is used to make 95% anhydrous salt for storage in Werk Nord, and part is sold to local consumers.
3. The electrolysis plant was stopped on 20 July, and all electrolytic baths are being cleaned and reconditioned. The reason for this step is not known, but there are rumors of insufficient purity. This cannot refer any longer to the nitrogen content because the maximum impurity in that respect had recently been reduced to 0.0025% and even 0.0015% had been achieved as against the previous figure of 0.01%.
4. Dr. Forst has improved the electrolysis baths by applying lids, whereby the summer production was maintained almost at winter level.
5. Dr. Wehner has invented a bath with a graphite diaphragm, permitting utilisation of electric current up to 80-90% as against the former average of 45% in the winter months.
6. It is believed that the electrolytic process will be resumed in due course but the distillation will henceforth be carried out in Russia.
7. Since 10 June 1948, the calcium-coated cathodes have been shipped for distillation to Russia, packed, four at a time, in metal-lined wooden cases 60 cm x 60 cm x 40 cm. About 20 to 30 cased were shipped daily until about 20 July when the electrolytic process was also stopped.

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